APPLICATION UNDER UNITED STATES PATENT LAWS

Invention: NEW CRYSTALLINE FORM OF A VITAMIN D ANALOGUE

Inventor(s): HANSEN, Erik Torngaard
RASTRUP ANDERSEN, Neils Smidt
RINGBORG, Lene Hoffmeyer

Cushman Darby & Cushman, L.L.P.
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Ninth Floor, East Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005-3918
Attorneys
Telephone: (202) 861-3000

This is a:

[ ] Provisional Application

[ ] Regular Utility Application

[ ] Continuing Application

[xx] PCT National Phase Application

[ ] Design Application

[ ] Reissue Application

[ ] Plant Application

SPECIFICATION

0 pats

NEW CRYSTALLINE FORM OF A VITAMIN D ANALOGUE

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This application is a 371 of PCT/DK94/00011 filed January 7, 1994.

The present invention relates to calcipotriol, hydrate - a new crystalline form of calcipotriol - with superior technical properties e.g. in the manufacture of crystal suspension formulations, and with superior stability properties.

Calcipotriol (INN) (calcipotriene (USAN), (1α,3β,5Z,7E,22E,24S)-24-Cyclopropyl-9,10-secochola-5,7,-10(19),22-tetraene-1,3,24-triol) is described in International patent application No. PCT/DK86/00081, filing date 14th July 1986, publication No. WO 87/00834.

Calcipotriol possesses a remarkable profile of biological activity which has proved very useful e.g. in the topical treatment of psoriasis.

Due to the poor stability of calcipotriol in certain solutions it is in some formulations, in particular in creams and gels, preferred to use crystal suspensions.

In order to prepare suitable crystal suspension formulations it is mandatory to be able to control the crystal size, this parameter being important with regard to obtaining a reproducible release of the active compound from the formulation. The crystalline bulk drug is usually subjected to micronization or to a wet milling process in order to reduce the crystal size before the final suspension formulation is prepared.

In the case of calcipotriol a wet ball milling process has been used. However, it has turned out to be technically difficult to perform this process when using the anhydrous crystal form described in WO 87/00834. These crystals are not easily wetted and during the milling process they develop a stable foam which results in difficulties in obtaining a suitable small and uniform particle size.

It has now surprisingly been found that these technical problems can be avoided when a hitherto unknown cry-

stalline form of calcipotriol, i.e. calcipotriol, hydrate, is used instead of the known anhydrous form. The hydrate is technically superior to the anhydrate; it is easily wetted and the wet ball milling process is running smoothly.

This novel product is the monohydrate of calcipotriol which is perfectly crystalline, stable and well suited for its use in modern therapy.

Stability studies have demonstrated that calcipotriol, hydrate is surprisingly stable, and this is illustrated by stability data at 40°C.

The anhydrous form of calcipotriol shows a considerable degree of decomposition at this temperature and more than 30% degradation is seen after 12 months storage.

In contrast the compound of the present invention, calcipotriol hydrate, shows no degradation after 12 months storage at 40°C.

Calcipotriol, monohydrate may be prepared by dissolving crystalline or non-crystalline calcipotriol in an organic solvent, e.g. ethyl acetate or acetone, followed by the addition of water and optionally a non polar solvent, e.g. hexane.

Calcipotriol, monohydrate shall form part of pharmaceutical preparations for topical use, such as creams, ointments, solutions, lotions or gels. The concentration of the active ingredient will generally be between 1 and 100 µg/g.

The formulations will be applied one or more times daily.

The formulations prepared according to the present invention comprise the active compound in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle and optionally other therapeutic ingredient(s). The vehicle(s) must be "acceptable" in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the preparations and not deleterious to the recipient thereof.

Preparations suitable for topical administration include liquid or semi-liquid preparations such as lini-

ments; lotions, applicants, oil-in-water or water-in-oil emulsions such as creams, ointments, pastes or gels; or solutions or suspensions.

In addition to the aforementioned ingredients, the preparations of this invention may include one or more additional ingredients such as diluents, buffers, surface active agents, thickeners, lubricants, preservatives, e.g. methyl hydroxybenzoate (including anti-oxidants), emulsifying agents and the like.

The invention will now be further described in the following non-limiting Examples:

Example 1

Calcipotriol (2.5 g) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (80 ml) at 50-80°C and filtered. The solution was saturated with water, and the product precipitated upon voluntary cooling to room temperature. The resulting slurry was cooled to 0-10°C and filtered. The filtered product was dried in vacuo to give calcipotriol, hydrate (2.35 g).

IR spectroscopy KBr technique

Lines characteristic for the hydrate are 1455 (m), 1442 (m), 1330 (w), 1290 (m), 1210 (m), 1085 (m), 907 (m), 895 (m) and 573 (w) cm^{-1}, respectively.

Solid state CPMAS[1] NMR

The following resonances are characteristic for calcipotriol, hydrate: 147.9, 146.5, 134.8, 130.3, 129.0, 126.5, 116.0, 109.4, 75.5, 68.2, 67.2, 56.9, 55.2, 47.8, 47.5, 42.9, 42.0, 41.3, 30.7, 28.9, 25.6, 23.1, 22.6, 19.5, 14.6, 6.2 and 1.9 ppm, respectively.

Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)

On a Perkin Elmer DSC7 instrument using 20°C/min. and approx. 2 mg sample, the hydrate shows loss of water near 117°C and a melting peak near 169.7°C.

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[1] Cross Polarization Magic Angle Spinning

Example 2

Calcipotriol (22.7 g) was dissolved in methanol (200-250 ml), filtered and concentrated in vacuo to a residue which was dissolved in ethyl acetate (200-250 ml) at 50-80°C and water (2 ml) was added. The resulting solution was seeded with calcipotriol, hydrate, and the product precipitated upon voluntary cooling to room temperature. Hexane (100 ml) was added from a dropping funnel, the resulting slurry was cooled to 0-10°C and filtered.

The filtered product was washed with a 1:1 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane (200 ml) and dried in vacuo to give calcipotriol, hydrate (19.7 g), shown to be identical with the product described in Example 1.

Example 3

Calcipotriol (120 mg) was dissolved in acetone (2 ml) and water (1.5-3 ml) was added. The product crystallized spontaneously and the resulting slurry was cooled to 0-10°C and filtered. The filtered product was dried in vacuo to yield calcipotriol, hydrate (100 mg), shown to be identical with the product of Example 1.

Example 4

Cream 50 µg/g

Calcipotriol, hydrate	50 mg
Cetomacrogol 1000	30 g
Cetostearylalcohol	60 g
Chloroallylhexaminium chloride	0.5 g
Propyleneglycol	30 g
Disodiumhydrogenphosphate	2 g
Liquid paraffin	50 g
White soft paraffin	170 g
Purified water ..... up to	1000 g

Melt cetomacrogol 1000, cetostearylalcohol, liquid paraffin and white soft paraffin at 75°C. Dissolve propylene glycol in water at 75°C and mix the solution with the fatty phase. Homogenize the emulsion and cool to 30°C. Mill calcipotriol, hydrate in part of the aqueous phase to a particle size predominantly below 10 µm and suspend in an aqueous solution of disodiumhydrogenphosphate and chloroallylhexaminiumchloride. Add the suspension to the emulsion and fill the cream in tubes.

Example 5

Gel 50 µg/g

Calcipotriol, hydrate		52.2 mg
(corresponding to 50 mg anhydrous)		
Carbomer		7 g
Cetomacrogol 1000		1 g
Diazolidinyl urea		2 g
Dichlorobenzyl alcohol		1 g
Disodium edetate		0.5 g
Sodium hydroxide		3.7 g
Propylene glycol		30 g
Purified water	up to	1000 g

Dissolve cetomacrogol, diazolidinyl urea, dichlorobenzyl alcohol, disodium edetate and propylene glycol in water. Add carbomer and homogenize by high speed. Add during agitation sodium hydroxide dissolved in part of the water. Mill the calcipotriol, hydrate in a bottle of water with glass beads until a particle size below 10 µm has been obtained. Add the calcipotriol, hydrate suspension to the gel and mix for 30 minutes. Fill the gel into collapsible tubes.